

## Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based device over a network, the method comprising:
  - ~~providing receiving by a first user a body-less electronic mail message, the body-less electronic mail message~~ having a subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving message content,~~]; receiving a text message into the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message containing at least one text message; and~~
  - ~~transmitting the body less electronic mail message to the user over the network~~
  - receiving from the first user, while the first user has the body-less electronic mail message selected, a command to initiate synchronous communications with a second user;
  - converting, in response to the command from the first user, the body-less electronic mail message into a synchronous communications format that includes each text message contained in the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message; and
  - initiating, in response to the command from the first user, synchronous communications between the first and second users to present each text message contained in the subject line of the converted body-less electronic mail message to the first and second users in the synchronous communications format.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages taken from a subject line of a previous body-less electronic mail message.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages

3 taken from a chat conversation converted into a format of a body-less  
4 electronic mail message.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-  
2 less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less  
3 electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox  
4 view, and displaying on the display screen an entire contents of the  
5 subject line when a cursor is positioned over a subject column of the line  
6 item.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-  
2 less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less  
3 electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox  
4 view having a column for the subject line, and displaying on the display  
5 screen a scroll bar arrow at one end of the subject line column, when a  
6 cursor is positioned over the subject column of the line item, for  
7 horizontally scrolling through the contents of the subject line.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting a  
2 delimiter into the subject line to separate the text message from a  
3 previous text message currently included in the subject line.

1 7. (canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 converting a chat conversion into [a] the body-less electronic mail  
3 message.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 displaying on a user interface a chat-like graphical window for engaging  
3 in the synchronous communications ~~chat in response to receiving the~~

4       ~~body-less electronic mail message over the network.~~

1    10. - 32. (cancelled)

1    33.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising giving the first user an  
2       option to reply to the received body-less electronic mail message with an  
3       electronic mail message having a message body.

1    34.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically  
2       generating a body-less electronic mail message when the first user  
3       chooses to reply to or forward the received body-less electronic mail  
4       message.

1    35.   (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising automatically placing  
2       a delineator between a text message presently in the subject line of the  
3       body-less electronic mail message when the first user receives the body-  
4       less electronic mail message and a text message subsequently added to  
5       the subject line after the first user chooses to reply to or forward the  
6       received body-less electronic mail message.

1    36.   (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the delineator includes a carriage  
2       return so that the text message subsequently added to the subject line  
3       appears on a new line within the subject line.

1    37.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically signing  
2       each text message in the subject line with an identity of an author of that  
3       text message.

1    38.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to a user an  
2       option to choose between generating a body-less electronic mail message  
3       and generating an electronic mail message with a message body.

1 39. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising preventing the first user  
2 from deleting content from the subject line of the received body-less  
3 electronic mail message.

1 40. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 displaying the received body-less electronic mail message on a  
3 display screen as a line item in a mailbox view; and  
4 displaying an indicator in association with the line item to identify  
5 the line item as a body-less electronic mail message.

1 41. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 receiving, by the first user, synchronous communications from the  
3 second user;  
4 receiving, from the first user, a command to initiate asynchronous  
5 communications with the second user;  
6 converting, in response to the command to initiate asynchronous  
7 communications, the received synchronous communications into a  
8 second body-less electronic mail message; and  
9 transmitting the second body-less electronic mail message to the  
10 second user over the network.